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IN THE CLAIMS:

1-7. (Cancelled).

8-21. (Withdrawn from consideration in this application).

22. (Canceled).

✓ 23. (Currently Amended) The light valve of claim 22 42 wherein said liquid crystal cell is an LCoS cell.

✓ 24. (Currently Amended) The light valve of claim 22 42 wherein light incident to the light valve is between 100 10° and 200 20° off-axis.

✓ 25. (Currently Amended) The light valve of claim 23 wherein light incident to the light valve is 150 15° off-axis.

✓ 26. (Currently Amended) The light valve of claim 22 42 wherein said liquid crystal cell has a twist angle ranging from 400 40° to 650 65°.

✓ 27. (Original) The light valve of claim 26 wherein said liquid crystal cell is in twisted nematic mode.

✓ 28. (Currently Amended) The light valve of claim 22 42 wherein the horizontal axis of said polarizer and the horizontal axis of said analyzer are 900 90° apart.

29. (Canceled).

✓ 30. (Currently Amended) The light valve of claim 29 42 wherein said retarder has a retardation value centered at 530 nanometers and a retardation angle centered at 890 89° in a red band of light.

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31. (Canceled).

¹⁰ ~~32.~~ (Currently Amended) The light valve of claim ~~31~~³³ wherein said retarder has a retardation value centered at 460 nanometers and a retardation angle centered at 89° in a green band of light.

33. (Canceled).

¹¹ ~~12~~ ~~34.~~ (Currently Amended) The light valve of claim ~~33~~³⁴ wherein said first retarder has a retardation value centered at 370 nanometers and a retardation angle centered at 890 89° in a blue band of light.

35. (Withdrawn from consideration in this application).

36-41. (Canceled).

¹ ~~42.~~ (New) A light valve for use in high contrast reflective microdisplays, comprising:
a twisted nematic mode reflective liquid crystal cell;
a color filter positioned to accept non-polarized light incident to the light valve;
a linear polarizer positioned between said color filter and said liquid crystal cell to impart a polarization to the incident light;
an analyzer positioned in the path of the light reflected by said liquid crystal cell; and
a retarder positioned between said liquid crystal cell and said analyzer in the path of the light reflected by said liquid crystal cell, the retarder having a retardation value ranging from 430 nanometers to 630 nanometers to reduce ellipticity of the reflected light and a retardation angle ranging from 87.6° to 90.2° in a red band of light;

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wherein light incident to the light valve is generally off-axis to said liquid crystal cell, and whereby polarization axes of light incident and light reflected are generally matched when the liquid crystal cell is in an off state.

9 **A3.** (New) A light valve for use in high contrast reflective microdisplays, comprising:

a twisted nematic mode reflective liquid crystal cell;
a color filter positioned to accept non-polarized light incident to the light valve;

a linear polarizer positioned between said color filter and said liquid crystal cell to impart a polarization to the incident light;

an analyzer positioned in the path of the light reflected by said liquid crystal cell; and

a retarder positioned between said liquid crystal cell and said analyzer in the path of the light reflected by said liquid crystal cell, the retarder having a retardation value ranging from 350 nanometers to 550 nanometers to reduce ellipticity of the reflected light and a retardation angle ranging from 87.5° to 90.5° in a green band of light;

wherein light incident to the light valve is generally off-axis to said liquid crystal cell, and whereby polarization axes of light incident and light reflected are generally matched when the liquid crystal cell is in an off state.

11 **A4.** (New) A light valve for use in high contrast reflective microdisplays, comprising:

a twisted nematic mode reflective liquid crystal cell;
a color filter positioned to accept non-polarized light incident to the light valve;

a linear polarizer positioned between said color filter and said liquid crystal cell to impart a polarization to the incident light;

an analyzer positioned in the path of the light reflected by said liquid crystal cell;

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and a retarder positioned between said liquid crystal cell and said analyzer in the path of the light reflected by said liquid crystal cell, the retarder having a retardation value ranging from 280 nanometers to 460 nanometers to reduce ellipticity of the reflected light and a retardation angle ranging from 87.7° to 90.3° in a blue band of light;

wherein light incident to the light valve is generally off-axis to said liquid crystal cell, and whereby polarization axes of light incident and light reflected are generally matched when the liquid crystal cell is in an off state.